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### **Copper to the Fore in World-Class CF Facility**

A state-of-the-art Cystic Fibrosis centre being constructed at Sheffield's Northern General Hospital is taking full advantage of copper's inherent properties both behind the scenes, for plumbing and electrical applications, and in a visible show of contemporary infection prevention measures.

Senior Project Manager Stephen Jenkins of Turner & Townsend explains how and why the red metal has been employed: "Copper plays an important role in the entire life cycle of the CF building and its contents, from design, through use, to end of life recycling. Our architects and designers value copper for its malleability, resistance to corrosion, durability and aesthetic qualities. It also helps us to improve energy efficiency in electricity distribution and appliances. Since copper is naturally antimicrobial (hence the decision to install copper ironmongery), it can also improve the safety and hygiene of water distribution and air ventilation systems."

With the new facility, it was the hope of Dr Frank Edenborough, Consultant at the Sheffield Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre, and the Cystic Fibrosis Team that they could create an environment to meet both the clinical and personal needs of patients. They helped design a ward that would combine key infection prevention measures – including Antimicrobial Copper door furniture – with a comfortable and appealing environment that aims to mitigate the boredom of sometimes very prolonged stays.

Dr Edenborough explains the clinical role copper will play: "In a bid to set the gold standard for infection prevention in CF, we felt that copper could make an important contribution towards minimising surface contamination from hands or coughing, killing potentially dangerous pathogens in between cleans and augmenting rigorous hygiene protocols. It is our hope that, in this way, copper will help reduce the risk of infections."




Hidden away as pipes and cables in the walls and ceilings, and on display as door furniture, copper will play a vital role in the hygienic and efficient operation of this exciting new unit.

Ends

**Notes to the editor:**

*The UK Copper Board was established in 1993 as part of a European campaign to promote the use of copper as the professional's choice when installing plumbing and heating systems.*

*The Board works in close association with tube and fitting manufacturers throughout the UK and Europe, and is supported by the International Copper Association and the European Copper Institute.*

		
Copper pipework under construction at the clinic	Bathroom pipework	Antimicrobial Copper door handle being installed

For further information or hi res images, contact:

Bryony Samuel  
Communications Officer  
UK Copper Board

Copper Development Association  
5 Grovelands Business Centre, Boundary Way  
Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TE

Tel: 01442 275705

Fax: 01442 275716

Email: [bryony.samuel@copperdev.co.uk](mailto:bryony.samuel@copperdev.co.uk)

Websites: [www.ukcopperboard.co.uk](http://www.ukcopperboard.co.uk)

[www.copperinfo.co.uk](http://www.copperinfo.co.uk)

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